



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Guidance for 2013-2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test for Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Students Receiving Accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)

Districts this year will have the option to administer the 2013-14 Smarter Balanced Field Test instead of Connecticut's legacy assessment: the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). When selecting this option, districts must consider the impact for students receiving special education services indicated in an individualized education program (IEP) or accommodations provided under Section 504. In order to facilitate a smooth transition, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is providing the following general guidance:

- Special education students assessed with the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist will continue to be assessed with the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist in Grades 3-8 and 10 for language arts, mathematics and access skills. Grades 5, 8 and 10 will also be assessed with the skills checklist for science. The [Learner Characteristics Inventory \(LCI\)](#) will continue to be collected as in prior years via the [Test Accommodations Data Collection Web site](#). Continue to record CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist on Page 9 of the IEP.
- Accommodations for students participating in the legacy CMT/CAPT and CMT/CAPT Modified Assessment System (MAS) will continue to be collected as in prior years via the [Test Accommodations Data Collection Web site](#). Record CMT /CAPT or CMT/CAPT MAS accommodations on page 9 of the IEP.
- **All** students, in Grades 5, 8, and 10 also will be assessed in Science utilizing the legacy (CMT or CAPT) assessment regardless of which assessment option a district selects. If the Smarter Balanced Field Test option is selected, record on page 9a as referenced in the guidance below.

Guidance Specific to Districts selecting the 2013-14 Smarter Balanced Field Test

Districts selecting the Smarter Balanced Field Test option must follow the guidance provided below.

1. How do we indicate on the IEP that the student will participate in the Smarter Balanced Field Test?

Presently page 9 of the IEP, the “**STATE AND DISTRICT TESTING AND ACCOMMODATIONS**” section, allows planning and placement teams (PPTs) to indicate which statewide assessment the student will be administered if applicable. Given the options on page 9, there is currently no way to indicate that the student will take the Smarter Balanced Field Test. Therefore, for this school year **ONLY**, an alternate to page 9 of the IEP has been created. This new page 9a, [2013-2014 STATE AND DISTRICT TESTING AND ACCOMMODATIONS](#) form (included) will allow planning and placement teams (PPT) to select the Smarter Balanced Field Test instead of the legacy CMT or CAPT for English language arts and mathematics.

2. What if we had the PPT meeting before my district selected the Smarter Balanced Field Test option?

If the PPT has been conducted prior to district selection of the Smarter Balanced Field Test option and the current IEP indicates the legacy assessment, the district must amend the IEP as indicated below.

Method One: Amend the IEP

If both the district and the parent agree to the change in the assessment (including agreed upon accommodations) without the need for further discussion at a PPT meeting, the replacement of page 9 with page 9a would constitute an **amendment** to the current IEP. The district can update this information by amending the IEP using [FORM ED634](#) and attaching the new page 9a along with the [Smarter Balanced Test Support/Accommodations Form](#) to the IEP to reflect the student's participation on the Smarter Balanced Field Test by following the procedures for amending an IEP.

It is expected that, at minimum, a Prior Written Notice, the revised pages 1 and 2 of the IEP being changed and any other pages of the IEP that will be different as a result of the changes made (e.g., goal and objectives pages, service delivery grid) will be attached to this agreement (form ED634) as verification of the changes made to the IEP and provided to the parents within a reasonable timeframe. Upon request, a parent must also be provided with a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated.

Method Two: Revise the IEP

If either the district and/or the parents wish to meet to discuss changes rather than amend the IEP through use of ED634, a PPT is convened. The change in the assessment (including agreed upon accommodations), is discussed at the PPT. Districts should update assessment information using the new page 9a of the IEP to reflect the student's participation on the Smarter Balanced Field Test. Since the Smarter Balanced Field Test allows for specific accommodations, these accommodations must also be considered and reflected on the newly created [Smarter Balanced Test Support/Accommodations Form](#).

3. What guidance is CSDE providing regarding students who were previously identified to take the legacy CMT /CAPT MAS?

In the 2014-15 school year the legacy CMT/CAPT MAS will no longer be an assessment option as it is not aligned to the Common Core State Standards. If the district selects to administer the Smarter Balanced Field Test for 2013-14, students with disabilities previously identified for the CMT/CAPT MAS are expected to participate in the Smarter Balanced Field Test. IEPs for these students will need to be amended using one of the methods described in the response for question number 2 above.

4. How are accommodations recorded for students with IEPs or Section 504 Plans?

CMT or CAPT Test Accommodations Forms are required for each student who will be assessed with accommodations for the legacy CMT/CAPT or the CMT/CAPT (MAS). The CMT or CAPT Test Accommodations Form does not need to be completed for students who are assessed with the Skills Checklist or for students who do not require testing accommodations.

If the district selects the Smarter Balanced Field Test, the new [Smarter Balanced Test Support/Accommodations Form](#) must be completed to support page 9a of the IEP.

Either the CMT/CAPT Test Accommodation Form or the 2014 [*Smarter Balanced Test Support/Accommodations Form*](#) should be completed by the district, special education facility or Regional Educational Service Center (RESC) attended by the student. Both accommodation forms should be used ONLY when a student is taking the CMT/CAPT science test in Grades 5, 8, or 10. The appropriate form(s) should be completed and attached to the IEP or Section 504 plan and copies given to the district test coordinator. The CMT or CAPT Test Accommodation Form and the 2014 [*Smarter Balanced Test Support/Accommodation Form*](#) should be entered on the [Test Accommodations Data Collection Web site](#).

Universal accessibility tools, designated supports, and documented accommodations associated with the Smarter Balanced Assessment can be viewed in the [Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines](#). Connecticut will be providing further guidance specific to the 2013-2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test in future communications.

2013-14 Smarter Balanced Field Test Special Documented Accommodations

In exceptional circumstances, there may be students whose disabilities require certain accommodations to be monitored. In these cases, upon the request of the district test coordinator (DTC), the CSDE will provide information regarding the [*PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF SPECIAL DOCUMENTED ACCOMMODATIONS For Smarter Balanced Field Test 2013-2014*](#). These petitions MUST be submitted to CSDE in writing, prior to testing (preferably by January 31, 2014). These petitions must also include all of the necessary documentation to support any request for the use of these special accommodations.

Please call Joe Amenta 860-713-6855 or Janet Stuck 860-713-6837 for questions related to accommodations.